

HP Docket No. 10013720-1

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Office's review of the present application. In response to the Office Action, the cited references have been reviewed, and the rejections and objections made to the claims by the Examiner have been considered. This Amendment is submitted in order to further prosecution and permit the issuance of a patent on the allowable subject matter, and should not be construed as acquiescence by Applicants in the outstanding rejection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue a continuing application.

In order to place the application in condition for allowance, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite the limitations of claim 24, claim 18 has been amended for reasons of formality, and claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice. Support for any claim amendments is found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Applicants believe that the amendment to the abovementioned claims does not require a further substantive examination and does not present new matter, and therefore request entry of this amendment. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections**Rejection Under 35USC §103**

Claims 1-4, 9-14, and 22-23 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,802,659 to Cremon et al. ("Cremon") in view of U.S. patent 6,527,356 to Spurr et al. ("Spurr"), and further in view of U.S. patent 5,600,770 to Kawabata et al. ("Kawabata"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent method claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of its dependent claim 24, which had been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form (Final Office Action, p.2). As such, it is

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believed that amended independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-4, 9-10, and 22-23, are now allowable, and such action is respectfully requested.

In addition, independent computer-readable medium claim 11, which was rejected based on similar arguments as presented for claim 1 (Final Office Action, p.9), has also been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 24. As such, it is believed that independent claim 11, and its dependent claims 12-14, are now allowable, and such action is respectfully requested.

Formalities

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 15-19 and 25-32.

The limitations of claim 24, which had been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would have been allowable if rewritten in independent form, have been included in amended claims 1 and 11 as explained heretofore, and thus claim 24 has been canceled without prejudice.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants agree with the Office's conclusion regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the reason(s) set forth in the Final Office Action. In particular, Applicants wish to emphasize that the patentability of claims stems from the respective combinations of elements defined by the claims, each viewed as a whole, rather than the presence of any particular element(s) in the combinations. Applicants submit that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to anticipate, teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased. Applicants thus rely on the claims, as drafted, rather than any characterization in the Final Office Action.

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Conclusion

Attorney for Applicants has reviewed each one of the cited references made of record and not relied upon, and believes that the claims presently on file in the subject application patentably distinguish thereover, either taken alone or in combination with one another.

Therefore, all claims presently on file in the subject application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with Applicant's attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Robert C. Sismilich, Esq. at the below-listed telephone number.

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**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION
FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES**

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing communication (including but not limited to the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such charges or fees, or any such overpayment, may be respectively paid out of, or into, the Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company. If any such payment also requires Petition or Extension Request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition or Request which is required to accompany the payment.

Respectfully submitted,



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